

Message Text

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16

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /042 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:JSGRAVATT:GL

APPROVED BY EB/OA:AWHITE

DOT-WMYERS

CAB-EACORBOY

IO/TRC-MHOYT

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R 121901Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ICAO

SUBJECT: GROUND HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS AT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

1. WHEN THE AIR TRANSPORT COMMITTEE CONSIDERS REVISION OF ANNEX 9, PARAGRAPH 6.4, A RECOMMENDED PRACTICE ON GROUND HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS AT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS, U.S. REP SHOULD TAKE FOLLOWING POSITION:

2. U.S. REP SHOULD SEEK TO MAINTAIN PRESENT WORDING OF PARAGRAPH 6.4.

3. IF STRONG SUPPORT DEVELOPS FOR REVISION, U.S. REP MAY AGREE TO SUBSTITUTION OF WORDING OF RECOMMENDATION B-16 OF 6TH FAL DIVISION, WITH NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES, FOR PRESENT WORDING.

4. DESIRE TO MAINTAIN PRESENT WORDING, WHICH ACCORDS
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AIRLINES FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN ARRANGING FOR GROUND HANDLING

SERVICES, RESTS ON CONCERN THAT FOREIGN RESTRICTIVE ARRANGEMENTS WILL IMPAIR U.S. AIRLINE OPERATIONS ABROAD. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS ARE INVOLVED, AS WELL AS THE LIKELIHOOD OF UNFAIR OR DISCRIMINATORY IMPOSITIONS ON U.S. CARRIERS. STRONG ICAO ENDORSEMENT OF PRINCIPLE OF

FREEDOM OF CHOICE STRENGTHENS U.S. IN DEALING WITH FOREIGN RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES.

5. PROBLEM OF INCONSISTENCY IS RECOGNIZED IN CONNECTION WITH FILING OF U.S. DIFFERENCE TO PARAGRAPH 6.4. DIFFERENCE FILED LARGELY BECAUSE OF LOCAL CONTROL OF AIRPORT ADMINISTRATIONS IN U.S. AND UNCERTAINTY AS TO EXTENT TO WHICH RESTRICTIONS ON GROUND HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS POSSIBLY MAY PREVAIL AT SOME U.S. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS. IN PAST, HOWEVER, U.S. HAS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED SOME ANNEX 9 PROVISIONS, EVEN WHILE FILING DIFFERENCES, ON GROUNDS THEY REPRESENTED SOUND AND DESIRABLE FACILITATION PRACTICES DESERVING THE WIDEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT. BELIEVE PARAGRAPH 6.4 MERITS APPLICATION OF THIS PRINCIPLE AS WELL.

6. U.S. PRESENTLY EXAMINING POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWAL OF DIFFERENCE TO PARAGRAPH 6.4. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, COMMITTEES, RESOLUTIONS, AIRPORTS, LANDING TAXES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE217547
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JS GRAVATT:GL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750318-0446
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750954/aaaabvpy.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GROUND HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS AT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS
TAGS: EAIR, ICAO
To: MONTREAL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006